Bill pending for clearance from Karnataka

2891. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposal of Karnataka for the Karnataka Taxation Laws (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999 is pending for clearance; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the current status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Karnataka has been requested to furnish clarifications on the observations of Ministries of Information & Broadcasting, Environment & Forests, Textiles and Finance & Company Affairs (Department of Revenue) on February 19, April 3 and October 1, 2002 respectively which have not yet been received.

Approval for setting up State SCs/STs Commission in AP

2892. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a proposal for presidential approval for setting up State Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes Commission in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the details thereof; and

(c) by when the approval is likely to be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Andhra Pradesh State Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Bill, 2002, reserved by the Governor of Andhra Pradesh, for the President's consideration under article 254(2) of the Constitution of India has been received in Ministry of Home Affairs on 26.4.2002.

(b) and (c) The State Legislations reserved for the consideration and assent of the President are examined from three angles *viz*, (a) conflict to any Central Law, (b) deviation from National or Central Policy, and (c) legal and Constitutional validity.

The State Government's clarifications/specific views on the observations of the Union Ministries have been received and are under examination in consultation with the concerned Ministries.

Meeting of National Integration Council

2893. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons of not calling the meeting of National Integration Council in last few years; and

(b) whether Government intend to reorganise NIC in near future and convene its meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) The meeting of National Integration Council has not been convened in the last few years as it was not reconstituted. The reconstitution of the Council is under consideration of the Government at the moment.

Seizure of pen/pencil pistols

2894. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Border Security Force and/or other police or para-military organisations have recently arrested some militants in the Kashmir Valley and seized some pen/pencil pistols from them;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to counter the threat of such small but highly dangerous arms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) As per the available reports on pen pistol was recovered by the Border Security Force from an abandoned house in J&K.

(c) The changing security situation in the State and available intelligence inputs are constantly reviewed, refined and monitored in the Unified Headquarters in the State and in meetings of Operations Groups and Intelligence Groups at various levels to meet the emerging threats and ground level requirements of fighting the terrorists. Security forces at the field level have sensitised to keep watch against use of small dangerous arms.